

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for dispensing an agent into body tissue defining a passageway comprising:

positioning a porous tubular ~~mesh~~ braid, comprising a contact-dispensable agent, at a target site within a passageway of a body;

expanding the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid against the body tissue by a radially-expandable element within the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid causing the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid to make intimate contact with the body tissue;

dispensing the agent from the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid into the body tissue;

contracting the radially-expandable element and the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid from the body; and

removing the radially-expandable element and the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid from the body.

27. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 26 wherein the expanding step is carried out using a balloon.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26 further comprising:
selecting an absorbent fiber tubular ~~mesh~~ braid;
selecting the agent; and
applying the agent to the absorbed fibers of the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid prior to the positioning step.

29. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 26 wherein the dispensing step is carried out as a result of the expanding step.

9. 30. (Currently Amended) A method for dispensing an agent into body tissue defining a passageway comprising:

positioning a porous tubular ~~mesh~~ braid, comprising a contact-dispensable agent, at a target site within a passageway of a body;

expanding the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid against the body tissue by a radially-expandable element within the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid causing the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid to make intimate contact with the body tissue;

dispensing the agent from the tubular ~~mesh~~ braid into the body tissue, the dispensing step being carried out using iontophoresis.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 26 wherein the positioning step is carried out using a porous tubular ~~mesh~~ braid which is not bioabsorbable.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A method for placing an endovascular structure at a target site within a passageway of the body comprising:

positioning an inflatable balloon, located at a first position along a catheter shaft of a catheter device, at a target site within a body passageway to enlarge the body passageway at the region of a stenosis;

inflating the balloon at the target site;

deflating the balloon;

moving the catheter shaft through the passageway so to displace the balloon distally from the target site and positioning at the target site an axially-compressible, radially-expandable, ~~tubular braid-scaffolding~~, stent releasably mounted to the catheter shaft at a second position along the catheter shaft, ~~at the target site~~;

expanding the ~~tubular braid-scaffolding~~ stent against the wall of the passageway at the target site; and

removing the catheter shaft and the balloon therewith from the passageway.

35. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 34 wherein the expanding step is carried out using a self-expandable scaffolding stent.

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 34 wherein the expanding step comprises axially compressing the scaffolding stent.

37. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 34 further comprising the step of dispensing an agent into the target site after the expanding step.

38. (currently Amended) The method according to claim 34 further comprising releasing the ~~scaffolding~~ stent from the catheter shaft after the expanding step.

39. (Withdrawn) A method for stabilizing an indwelling catheter at the exit site of the body comprising:

passing the distal end of a catheter through an exit site of the body so the proximal end of the catheter remains outside of the body;

positioning an axially-compressible, radially-expandable, tubular braid scaffolding at the exit site, the scaffolding secured to the catheter; and

securing the catheter in place at the exit site by placing the scaffolding in an axially-compressed, radially-expanded condition so the scaffolding presses against the exit site.

40. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 39 further comprising selecting a catheter having scaffolding made of a bioabsorbable material.

41. (Withdrawn) A method for modifying a radially-expandable endovascular tubular braid structure comprising:

applying a material in a flowable state to the interstitial pores of a radially-expandable endovascular tubular braid structure;

curing the material to form a membrane at least within the coated interstitial pores.

42. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41 wherein the applying step is carried out using a solvent as the material.

43. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 41 wherein the applying step is carried out using and thermoplastic materials as the material.

44. (Previously Added) The method according to claim 41 wherein the applying step is carried out by at least a chosen one of casting, spraying and dipping.

45. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41 further comprising the step of at least partially radially expanding the tubular braid prior to the applying step.

46. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41 wherein the applying step is carried out using a material that creates an elastic membrane upon curing.

47. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41 wherein the applying step is carried out using a material that creates an inelastic membrane upon curing.

48. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41 further comprising selecting a chosen porosity for the membrane and acting on the material to achieve a chosen porosity.

49. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 48 wherein the material acting on step is carried out as a part of least one of the applying and curing steps to achieve said chosen porosity.

50. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 48 wherein the material acting on step comprises perforating the membrane after the curing step to achieve said chosen porosity.

51. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41 wherein the applying step is carried out using at least one of dissolvable crystals and bubbles to roughen the surface of the cured membrane.

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52. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41 further comprising selecting at least one of polyester, polyethylene, polyurethane, silicone, or poly(ethylene terephthalate) for the membrane.

53. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 41 wherein the applying and curing steps are carried out in a manner to create a tubular braid structure suitable for removing particulate from a blood vessel.

54. (Withdrawn) A radially-expandable endovascular tubular braid structure made according to the method of claim 41.

55. (Withdrawn) A method for modifying a radially-expandable endovascular tubular braid structure comprising:

applying a material in a flowable state to the interstitial pores of a radially-expandable endovascular tubular braid structure;

the applying step being carried out using a material that creates an elastic material upon curing;

curing the material to form an elastic membrane at least within the interstitial pores;

selecting a chosen porosity for the membrane; and

acting on the material to achieve the chosen porosity.
